DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 422 113 PS 026 820

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TITLE Reinventing Childhood: Raising and Educating Children in a Changing World.
ISBN ISBN-1-56762-069-8
PUB DATE 1998-00-00
NOTE 204p.
AVAILABLE FROM Modern Learning Press, P.O. Box 167, Rosemont, NJ 08556; phone: 800-627-5867; fax: 9140277-3548 ($19.95).
PUB TYPE Books (010)
EDRS PRICE Document Not Available from EDRS.
DESCRIPTORS *Child Development; *Child Rearing; Childhood Needs; Cognitive Style; Disabilities; *Early Childhood Education; Educational Needs; Educational Technology; Educational Theories; Family (Sociological Unit); Gifted; Intelligence; Language Acquisition; *Parent Child Relationship; Personality Development; Reading Instruction; Social Change; Socialization; Teacher Student Relationship; *Young Children
IDENTIFIERS Developmentally Appropriate Programs; *Postmodernism; Scripts (Knowledge Structures)

ABSTRACT

One of the many positive consequences of the transition to a postmodern society is the increased recognition of the range of individual differences among children of the same age. This book provides a comprehensive overview of the postmodern reinvention of childhood, focusing on ages 4 through 8 years. The book's introductory chapter describes the transition from a modern to a postmodern society, focusing on the transformation of the American family. Chapter 2 offers a brief biographical sketch of the major crafters of modern childhood (Froebel, Montessori, Freud, Steiner, Piaget, Vygotsky, Erikson), a summary of their major theoretical contributions, and the implications of their work for postmodern times. The next five chapters explore the reinvention of childhood in regard to language, intelligence, personality, socialization, and normality. The book's afterword examines some of the ongoing attempts at reinvention and the lessons to be learned from these efforts. Each chapter contains references. (Author/KB)

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